

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:CGBUCK:AG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065456

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: FY 1975 APPROPRIATION

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE FROM ERNST - EYES ONLY

1. SENATE/HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, WHICH COMPLETED ACTION ON FAA MARCH 20, AGREED TO SENATE REDUCTION IN SECTION 482 FUNDS WHICH PROVIDES US WITH TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF DOLS 32.8 MILLION IN FY 75 FUNDS. THIS INCLUDES AUTHORITY TO USE DOLS 15.3 MILLION NOT OBLIGATED IN FY 1974 AND DOLS 17.5 MILLION IN NEW OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.

2. FOLLOWING OUR EARLIER CABLE EXCHANGE, I DISCUSSED FY 1975 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS WITH THE PRINCIPAL HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF OFFICIAL DEALING WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (RICHBURG). AFTER MY PRESENTATION HE ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO INSURE THAT WE WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COVER PROGRAMS ALREADY APPROVED PLUS
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UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCIES; I.E., THAT HE WOULD PRESS FOR

DOLS 42.5 MILLION.

3. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WAS IN STATE OF HIGH PRESSURE
LOOKING TO EASTER RECESS WHICH APPARENTLY CONTRIBUTED TO
ACCEPTANCE STRONG SENATE POSITION. WE JUDGE BIG ELEMENT
IN THAT, AS YOU WILL SEE FROM SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORT BEING HAND CARRIED TO YOU BY ED JOHNSON,
WAS SENATE COMMITTEE DISMAY WITH TURKEY WHICH SPREAD TO
AFFECT TOTALITY OUR PROGRAM. HAVING IN HAND SENATE REPORT,
I TALKED TO RICHBOURG IN TERMS OTHER THAN TURKEY IN STRESS-
ING OUR NEED FUNDS FOR TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY (BURMA,
MEXICO, MIDDLE EAST).

4. ON BASIS DOLS 32.8 MILLION, WE CAN DO EVERYTHING NOW
FIRMLY IN SIGHT. NEXT TRANCHE OF HELICOPTERS FOR BURMA
(DOLS 5.4 MILLION) WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM FY 76 FUNDS.
INGERSOLL

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